(b) whether a movement for trifurcation of State of J&K is going on in region and sees the trifurcation of State as a solution to crisis in J&K; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Some voices have been raised in this regard in Ladakh and Jammu region of Jammu & Kashmir. However, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

Computer-Readable National Identity Cards

12l6.DR.ARUNKUMARSARMA:WiIltheMinisterofHOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 373 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of the report by the firm employed for feasibility study of implementation of Computer- Readable Identity Cards;

(b) the action taken thereon; and

(c) the reasons for delay of the report, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c)The report of the feasibility study has covered aspects relating to creation of an identification system of one billion people, streamlining of the machinery for the registration of births and deaths at the panchayat level and institutional as well as technological options for the creation of an integrated data base of personal identities capable of being updated and addition/deletion due to births/deaths etc. The feasibility study report received from the consultancy firm is being examined in the Ministry and the consultant has been requested to clarify certain aspects relating to implementation of the scheme. The Government will take up such a gigantic exercise only after an in-depth examination of all relevant issues and after necessary preparation for launching the system including on enabling legislation.

Repeal of IMDT Act

1217. DR.ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
DR. (SMT) JOYASREE GOS WAMIMAHANTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of issues finalized and being implemented under clause 6 to 7 of Assam Accord; and

(b) the action taken to repeal IMDT Act when Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that this Act is discriminatory and as such it is unconstitutional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Clause 6 of the Assam Accord states that constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people. Following issues have been finalized by the Government to implement clause 6 of the Assam Accord:

(i) Establishment of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati. The Kalakshetra was inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India in November, 1998. (A sum of Rs. 18.05 crores has been released).

(ii) Establishment of Jyoti Chitraban (Film) Studio at Guwahati at a cost of Rs. 8.79 crores.

Clause 7 of the Assam Accord states that the Government take this opportunity to renew their commitment for the speedy all round economic development of Assam, so as to improve the standard of living of the people. Special emphasis will be placed on education and science & technology through establishment of national institutions. Following major schemes have been finalised by the Government to implement clause 7 of the Assam Accord:

(i) Numaligarh Refinery, set up at a cost of Rs. 2,500 crores, and inaugurated by the Prime Minister in July, 1999.

(ii) Two Central Universities, one atTcjpur and the other at Silchar, have been set up.

(iii) An UT has been set up at Guwahati.

(iv) Rail-cum-road bridge at Jogighopa has been commissioned and inaugurated by Prime Minister in April, 1998. This has opened road traffic from Jogighopa to Guwahati *via* south bank of Brahmaputra.

(v) Kathalguri Power Project (60 MW) has been commissioned.

(vi) LPG Bottling Plant at Bongaigaon has been set up at an estimated cost of Rs. 30.68 crores.

(vii) 3 industrial growth centres at a cost of Rs. 20 crores each have been sanctioned at Chariduar, Matia and Sonapur.

(viii) Implementation of PMs initiative announced in 1996.

(ix) Implementation of Agenda for Socio-economic Development of NE States announced by the PM in Shillong Conference held in January, 2000.

(b) No orders have yet been passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Writ Petition filed before it challenging the constitutional validity of the IMDTAct, 1983.

Union Territory status to frontier district of Kutch

† 1218. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transformation of the frontier district of Kutch into Union Territory is under serious consideration of Government so that the surveillence of the same be made directly by the Central Government;

(b) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat have completely failed in developing and providing security to the frontier area like Kutch and often the incidence of infiltration and smuggling has been taking place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ID. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no evidence to suggest that the Government of Gujarat have failed to provide security in the frontier areas like Kutch and to check incidence of infiltration and smuggling.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.